

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122478
ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO USNMR PRIORITY
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
USLOSACLANT PRIORITY
USDELMC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122478

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM

1. REFTEL JUST RECEIVED AND THEREFORE NOT YET TAKEN INTO
ACCOUNT. NEVERTHELESS, WE PROVIDE TENTATIVE VIEWS BELOW
WHICH WE HOPE WILL PROVE USEFUL IN MOVING PROGRAM FORWARD
PROMPTLY. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY MISSION COMMENTS ON
SUITABILITY OF FOLLOWING APPROACH.

2. TO SUSTAIN MOMENTUM, WE DESIRE EARLY ACTION BY DPC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 122478

PERMREPS TO PASS TASK OF PREPARING THE PROGRAM TO EWG,
EITHER THROUGH SILENCE PROCEDURE OR IN THEIR REVIEW OF THE
RECORD OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL. WE
WOULD RELY ON YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO HOW THIS STEP MIGHT BE
EXPEDITED. CAN ANY EWG GROUND WORK BEGIN IN ADVANCE OF
THIS STEP?

3. EWG WOULD BE AUGMENTED AS NECESSARY BY POLICY LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS WHO CAN SPEAK FOR GOVERNMENTS, AT LEAST EVERY SIX WEEKS TO TWO MONTHS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REVIEW. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARATION OF PAPERS FOR EACH PROGRAM AREA WOULD BE MADE BY

BY 1 JUNE WITH INITIAL PAPERS COMPLETED BY 1 JULY. THESE WOULD BE REVIEWED BY AN AUGMENTED EWG IN MID-JULY.

4. INITIAL TASKS IN SEQUENCE FOR EWG ON LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM WOULD SEEM TO BE:

A. VALIDATION OF PRIORITY AREAS FOR LONG-TERM PROGRAMS.

WE HOPE EWG ACTION BASED ON NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND INSTRUCTED VIEWS OF NMA REPS CAN PROCEED RAPIDLY. SINCE OUR LIST IS ALREADY REGARDED AS AMBITIOUS, WE HOPE FINAL AGREED LIST WILL NOT EXCEED 8-10 PROGRAMS. IF THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE AREAS, CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO SUBSTITUTING THOSE ITEMS FOR SOME OF OURS. ALL APPEAR TO AGREE THAT APPROACH DESIRED IN THIS FIRST YEAR IS CLEARLY MINISTERIAL MANAGEMENT BY EXCEPTION. IN YEARS TO COME IF OVERALL PROGRAM PROVES BOTH EFFECTIVE AND MANAGEABLE, CONSIDERATION CAN BE GIVEN TO EXPANDING SCOPE OF PROGRAM. HOWEVER, FOR THE TIME BEING EWG TASK WOULD BE TO AGREE ON A FIRM LIST OF SEVERAL CRITICAL PROBLEM AREAS WHERE SPECIAL MINISTERIAL ATTENTION AND MANAGEMENT DECISIONS ARE NEEDED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 122478

B. PREPARE ADEQUATE TORS FOR EACH PRIORITY PROGRAM TAKING INTO ACCOUNT SECDEF DPC INTERVENTION. THE US STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD LAYS OUT THE NEED FOR INCORPORATING BOTH NATIONAL AND COLLECTIVE/NATO ACTIONS. TABS TO KOMER REPORT TO SECDEF, SOME OF WHICH ARE ALREADY AVAILABLE IN USNATO, ALSO GIVE BACKGROUND FOR MISSION USE IN DISCUSSIONS. OBJECTIVE IS TO BE BOTH LONGER-TERM AND SUFFICIENTLY COMPREHENSIVE TO PERMIT BALANCED PROGRESS IN DEVELOPMENT OF FORCES AND ALL OTHER ESSENTIAL ACTIONS WITHIN THE PROGRAM FIELD, INCLUDING COLLECTIVE PROGRAMS, INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDIZATION, COMMON FUNDING OF SOME FORM TO FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, AND STRENGTHENING NATO MACHINERY WHERE INDICATED. SECDEF SUPPORTED THESE IN HIS INTERVENTION.

5. OUR TENTATIVE PREFERRED ASSIGNMENTS OF RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES FOR PREPARATION OF DRAFT PROGRAMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:
READINESS - SACEUR/SACLANT-CINCHAN

REINFORCEMENT AND MOBILIZATION - SACEUR/SACLANT OR IMS
STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY - WORKING GROUP
REPRESENTING CNAD - AND AHC ON INTEROPERABILITY
(AUGMENTED FROM CAPITALS) (SINCE COMMUNICATIONS,
LOGISTICS AND READINESS ARE HANDLED SEPARATELY,

THIS PROGRAM COULD BE LIMITED TO STANDARDIZATION/
INTEROPERABILITY AS OPPOSED TO RATIONALIZATION AS
A WHOLE. HOWEVER, SUCH ISSUES AS HARMONIZATION
OF DOCTRINE, TACTICS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, ETC.,
ALSO SHOULD BE HANDLED HERE TO THE EXTENT THEY
ARE NOT DEALT WITH UNDER OTHER HEADINGS.

MARITIME - SACLANT (WITH INPUTS FROM SACEUR/CINCHAN)

AIR DEFENSE - SACEUR IN COOPERATION WITH CNAD (IN LIGHT
OF HIS MC 54/1 RESPONSIBILITIES)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 122478

C3 - MNCS WITH SUPPORT FROM NJCEC/TSGCEE FOR COMMUNICA-
TIONS - ELECTRONICS. (WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR
THAT TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS IS INCLUDED UNDER C3
RUBRIC.)

CONSUMER LOGISTICS - AD HOC WORKING GROUP

EW - WORKING GROUP FROM NEWAC

TNF - NPG

6. WE WOULD SEE MOST QUESTIONS OF ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES
IN NATO AS BEING DEALT WITH IN EACH PROGRAM AREA, AT
LEAST AT THE OUTSET. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO SUPPORT
EFFECTIVE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, ONCE PROGRAMS HAVE
BEEN ADOPTED. BUT SOME ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES MAY NEED
TO BE HANDLED BY A SPECIAL GROUP LATER. FOR EXAMPLE,
WHAT ABOUT POSSIBLE CHANGES IN IS OR IN MILITARY
STRUCTURE?

7. WE SEE EWG MONITORING THE OVERALL STUDY, LOOKING FOR
TRADEOFF OPPORTUNITIES AMONG THE PROGRAMS (AGENCIES
RESPONSIBLE FOR EACH PROBLEM AREA WOULD OF COURSE BE
MAKING TRADEOFF DECISIONS WITHIN THE PROGRAM AREAS),
AND INSURING THAT THE OVERALL PLAN SUBMITTED TO
MINISTERS WILL FIT WITHIN RESOURCE GUIDANCE AGREED IN
MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE 77.

8. MC COULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THIS PROGRAM BY ITS
PARTICIPATION IN EWG THROUGH PRESENCE OF IMS REP AND BY

ITS FORMAL REVIEW OF EWG REPORT TO THE DEFENSE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION BEFORE THESE REPORTS ARE ACTED ON BY DPC. HOWEVER, MC VIEWS ON ITS ROLE WOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THE FINAL FORMULATION.

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PAGE 05 STATE 122478

9. WE WOULD SEE PROGRESS REPORTS BY CHAIRMAN EWG TO DPC, PERHAPS FOLLOWING EACH AUGMENTED EWG MEETING.

10. TENTATIVE MILESTONES:

BY 1 JUNE: EWG ASSIGNS RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREPARATION OF INDIVIDUAL DRAFT PROGRAMS, CALLING FOR INITIAL PAPERS BY 1 JULY, INDICATING GENERAL LINE OF ACTION AND TENTATIVE TIMETABLE FOR PREPARATION OF REPORT.

MID-JULY: EWG CONDUCTS INITIAL REVIEW WITH POLICY LEVEL REPRESENTATION FROM CAPITALS.

EARLY OCTOBER: TENTATIVE EWG MID-TERM REVIEW WITH POLICY LEVEL REPRESENTATION FROM CAPITALS (DEPENDENT UPON PROGRESS).

1 NOVEMBER: STATUS REPORTS ARE SUBMITTED BY DRAFTING AGENCIES TO EWG.

MID-NOVEMBER: EWG CONDUCTS MAJOR REVIEWS WITH POLICY LEVEL AUGMENTATION FROM CAPITALS.

2 DECEMBER: DPC PERMREPS APPROVE STATUS REPORT TO MINISTERS.

6 - 9 DECEMBER: DPC AND NAC MINISTERS REVIEW PROGRESS.

1 MARCH 1978: DRAFTING AGENCIES SUBMIT REPORTS WITH DRAFT PROGRAM AND ANY RELATED ORGANIZATIONAL OR PROCEDURAL CHANGES TO EWG.

BY 1 APRIL 1978: EWG FINAL REVIEW WITH POLICY LEVEL REPS FROM CAPITALS.

14 APRIL 1978: EWG SUBMITS PROPOSED PROGRAMS AND
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 122478

ORGANIZATIONAL OR PROCEDURAL CHANGES TO DPC.

1 MAY: DPC PERMREPS APPROVE REPORT TO DPC MINISTERS.

TO BE DECIDED: DPC MINISTERS TAKE ACTION ON PROGRAM.

TO BE DECIDED: NAC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REVIEW DPC
MINISTERIAL ACTION ON PROGRAMS.

11. FYI. ASYG LABERGE HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN IN WASHINGTON LEST SEVERAL COUNTRIES TRY TO CUT BACK THE NUMBER OF PRIORITY AREAS IN THE LONG-TERM PROGRAM ON GROUNDS 8-9 TOO MUCH TO HANDLE AT ONE TIME. REAL REASON, LABERGE BELIEVES IS FEAR HIGH PRICE TAGS MIGHT BE INVOLVED. IF MISSION TOO SEES REAL RISK OF SUCH CUTBACK, SUGGEST AMBASSADOR OR DCM TRY TO NIP IT IN THE BUD BY DISCUSSING MATTER AT HIGH LEVEL WITH FOUR OR FIVE KEY DELEGATIONS. TO THE EXTENT THAT RESULTANT BUDGET INCREASES ARE FEARED, WE SHOULD REASSURE ALLIES OF SECDEF'S REPEATED STATEMENTS (ALSO IN KOMER BRIEFING OF PERMREPS) THAT TO EXTENT ADD-ONS NOT AVAILABLE, TOUGHER PRIORITIZING, TRADEOFFS, AND REPROGRAMMING SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED. INDEED ONE OF MAIN PURPOSES OF EXERCISE IS TO MEET REAL NEEDS AT COST ALL CAN AFFORD. MOREOVER, PROGRAM IS LONG-TERM BY DEFINITION AND IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE FRAMEWORK FOR ADEQUATE BUDGETING OVER 5 - 10 YEAR PERIOD. EYD FYI.

12. OUR MAJOR EFFORT SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON MAINTAINING A PACE WHICH WOULD BRING US TO THE SPRING 1978 SUMMIT WITH SOLID PROGRAMS IN HAND. WORKING LEVEL EFFORT WILL NEED TO BE COMPLETED WELL BEFORE SUMMIT. YOUR THOUGHTS ON HOW BEST TO ORGANIZE TO ACHIEVE THIS AMBITIOUS RESULT ARE WELCOMED.

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PAGE 07 STATE 122478

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